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DIDSBURY REVIEW

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

www.didsburyreview.ca

Volume 28 Issue 36



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Children try out the equipment at the Bergthal Mennonite Church playground opening Aug. 28.

Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

For this special playground we give thanks

BY FRANK DABBS
 MVP Staff

One story ended and another began when the Bergthal Mennonite Church children cut ceremonial ribbons Aug. 28 on their newly installed playground inherited from the nearby Midway Community School.

The congregation celebrated the event with the ribbon cutting and a Friday evening hotdog roast beside the playground on the church property on the Bergthal Road east of Didsbury.

Tracy Brown, who attended the school as a young student, taught the crowd a folk song-style prayer called For This Special Playground We Give Thanks.

Some of the parents of the children who cut the ribbons and played on the equipment attended Midway School, which was built in 1953, expanded with construction of a gym in 1960 and survived the first proposed closure in 2008.

The school was finally closed June 30, 2013 at the end of the school year.

It no longer made sense to keep it open because attendance had declined to a dribble of students, and the building needed repairs to meet Chinook's Edge School Division standards for the safety and well-being of the students.

Oilfield and pipeline welders Darcy MacKinnon, Steve Nowosad and Jeff McNall purchased the school in February 2014 to convert into an oilfields and oilfield manufacturing shop.

"(She) can draw young families to a congregation."

DAVID DERKSEN

MacKinnon, the project leader, had several requests to purchase the playground equipment at the school.

He gave the Bergthal church the equipment to keep in the neighbourhood.

Church volunteers moved the

equipment from the school to the church, levelled the ground, installed a framework of railway tie timbers and a base of fine gravel and reassembled the playground.

The only cash expenses the church incurred were for the timbers and tool rental.

Bergthal has become a community primarily of acreage owners living on small parcels subdivided from pasture, hay and grain land now leased to farm operators.

"I didn't know we had this many children in the congregation," one long-standing member said.

"I hope we see them come Sunday."

The church has called a new minister, Rev. Anna-Lisa Salo, who formally started work Sept. 1 but was at the playground ribbon cutting and barbecue.

Church chairman Dave Derksen said one thing the church saw in Rev. Salo was that she could draw young families to be part of a new start for a congregation with an aging membership.



Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

Charlize Lowen cuts a ribbon at the opening ceremony and hotdog roast.



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Liberal campaigns for disenfranchised Conservatives

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

The Liberal Party candidate for Red Deer-Mountain View says she is the "middle" choice for Conservatives disenfranchised by the policies and performance of the Harper government.

Chandra Kastern, a massage therapist, executive director of the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra and mother of 11-year-old Phoenix, was nominated Aug. 30 to represent the Liberals in the Oct. 12 election.

"I bring a fresh set of eyes to the riding," Kastern said in a Sept. 2 interview.

"My voters are the 60 per cent who are undecided," she said.

"That includes Conservatives who can no longer support Stephen Harper."

"The NDP is too far left, especially in Red Deer-Mountain View."

"As a province we have been saying 'oops' since electing an NDP provincial government in May," said Kastern.

"But (NDP Leader Thomas) Mulcair thinks he can ride his party's Alberta momentum into power."

"In Canada we have a party on the right in government and a party on the left as the official Opposition," she said.

"What we need is a centre party in government."



Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff
Red Deer-Mountain View Liberal Party candidate Chandra Kastern.

For Canadians who don't like the way Harper has changed things, but can't swing to the far left and the NDP, Liberals are the obvious choice, Kastern said.

"I don't like what Harper has done. When I received his \$420 child care benefit increase in July, I sent it back," she said.

"I wrote on the cheque: 'Nice try'."

Kastern was raised in Thunder Bay, Ont. where her father was a grain commissioner, now a grain inspector, and her stepmother a cook with Corrections Canada.

She came to Red Deer 10 years ago after she finished college to work as a massage therapist.

"I love causes," she said.

Her first cause in Alberta was to lead the change management process that transformed the Massage Therapy Association of Alberta (MTAA).

She was taken aback to discover that massage therapy had poor self-government and when she raised the issue, the association officials asked her, "What are you going to do about it?"

She volunteered to be the MTAA treasurer when it was a 300-member sleepy little club that didn't differentiate between trained professionals and the well meaning but poorly qualified.

By the time she finished a four-year stint as president, the MTAA was a 1,100-member group of health-care professionals who had gained the right to send bills to third-party health insurers.

Then Kastern accepted the position as executive director of the Red Deer symphony, which was struggling finan-

cially.

She took over in a year when the symphony lost \$69,000 and was limping badly.

It closed its books for the most recent year \$900 in the black.

"I am not a music person, and that gave me the emotional detachment needed to encourage the board and staff to try new things," said Kastern.

She is the last major party candidate to be nominated in Red Deer-Mountain View, and planned to hit the ground running in the rural half of the riding over the Labour Day weekend with meetings in Didsbury, Olds and Innisfail.

She entered the race after Red Deer-Lacombe Liberal candidate and United Church minister Jeff Rock encouraged and mentored her to do so.

She describes herself as "squarely behind" the party's campaign platform and said she looks forward to listening to what the people of the riding think.

"Red Deer-Mountain View is about half and half urban and rural, so I will enjoy listening to many different points of view," she said.

"But don't underestimate me," she added.

"If I had a nickel for everyone who has underestimated me, I'd be a wealthy woman."

TOWN OF DIDSBURY



Town Office: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.3391
Public Works: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.8343
Information Line 403.335.2030
After Hours (Toll Free) 866.527.5866
Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369
www.didsbury.ca

PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS: Tuesday September 8 & 22, 2015 at 6:00 pm.
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Wednesday September 9, 2015 at 4:30 pm

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.

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Green Bin 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30

October

6, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22
1, 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29

Please visit www.didsbury.ca/town/recycling to view the zone map to determine what day your bin will be picked up.

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Please join us in celebrating the longest reigning Monarch in Commonwealth history. On September 9, 2015 at noon, there will be a ceremony followed by tea and sandwiches in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Didsbury Memorial Complex. This event is FREE of charge. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to 403.335.7369.

Family and Community Support Services

Didsbury Family and Community Support Services is putting out a call for funding applications. 2015 FCSS funds are still available for eligible groups. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2015.



Please contact Jolene Sanford at 403.335.8719 for an application or for more information.

Didsbury Aquatic Centre - Pool Closure

Please be aware that the pool will be closed for annual maintenance from 7 pm Sunday August 30 until we reopen on Monday September 14 at 7 am where the Fall Schedule will commence.

Please ask at the booth for the Fall Schedule.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Development Permits have been issued for these proposed developments:

DP15-066

18 Deer Coulee Drive

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Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037 - 19 Avenue or by calling 335-3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 4:30 p.m. on **September 21, 2015**

Phil Boucher - Development Officer

Moving progressively into the future by enhancing our community and quality of life, while respecting our history.

Helipad project sent back to bidders



Rosebud Health Foundation directors Clem Keulker (l) and Alf Olhauser inspect the earth that will be used to build the helipad at the Didsbury hospital.

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

Alberta Health Services (AHS) will launch a new bidding round for the Didsbury hospital's emergency helipad this month after bids submitted in the first round exceeded the budget by \$200,000.

Chief program officer for capital manage-

ment Brian Stevenson said AHS expects "more reasonable" bids to be submitted because of the "turndown (in) Alberta's economy."

If a suitable bid is submitted by a qualified bidder and accepted, work on the helipad could begin before winter, "depending on when winter begins," said Stevenson.

In any case, "the new helipad would be completed next year."

Although AHS is waiting to see how the provincial government's fall budget affects its \$18-billion annual expenditures, Alberta Health Services is committed to this project because the community is paying for it through the Rosebud Health Foundation.

There may be a "different design" required to bring the project in on budget, said Stevenson, adding Transport Canada specifications for a compliance certificate will not be compromised.

"We are just the bankers," said Alf Olhauser, Rosebud Health Foundation chair.

"AHS is the builder and operator."

The Rosebud Health Foundation solicits funds to buy equipment for the hospital and has raised \$415,000 to pay for the helipad, said foundation board member Clem Kuelker.

"That is our budget and we thought we'd get a bid for that or a bit less," said Kuelker.

"But the low bid in the first round was \$615,000."

The previous Didsbury hospital helipad was shut down in 2009.

In the interim, STARS air ambulance service has been required to use the Olds-Didsbury airport, said Olhauser.

"This is not very satis-

factory because EMS is required to meet the helicopter, because it has the medical equipment needed to transport a patient to the hospital, and the fire department must inspect the runway for debris before the helicopter lands," said Olhauser.

"We have used the Zion church parking lot, but we have that access only when the building is not in use for a function and the south doors of the building (which open onto the parking lot) are locked."

As at the airport, EMS and the fire department must be present, he said.

On one occasion in winter, chips of ice from the surface of the lot were lifted and driven by the helicopter rotor backwash into a small gathering of spectators.

The new helipad will comply with Transport Canada rules for its size to accommodate the large newer STARS helicopters and have the two approach paths, windsock, markings and lighting needed for certification.

CAO on sick leave terminated three

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

On July 16, more than a month after he went on sick leave, former Town of Didsbury CAO Roy Brown terminated three employees, citing "organizational restructuring."

Brown had been absent from the town office since June 10.

However in a memo to town council and staff July 16, Brown said "some tough decisions had to be made for our organization to achieve

the high level of efficiency and fiscal responsibility that our residents demand and deserve."

Development officer Dani Woodman and Wanda Braybrook of payroll and accounts receivable saw their jobs eliminated. Dean Mousseau in the financial services department "has chosen to move up her retirement date," Brown said in the memo.

Public works manager Greg Skotheim had infrastructure and project management added to his workload and the

legislative services manager had development added to his responsibilities.

Brown said in the memo, "For the past 9 months we have focused our attention towards department effectiveness and overall organizational performance."

"We have spent considerable time researching and debating methods in which the organization can be even more effective."

At the end of the memo Brown said, "I appreciate your patience and

understanding during this time of change."

Council was not given advance notice of the terminations and two weeks later, on July 28, it appointed Skotheim as acting CAO in a motion that stipulated he will hold the job "indefinitely until the return of CAO Brown".

Council is now looking for a new CAO.

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Something for everyone at arts festival

BY MAXINE SPENCE

Didsbury comes alive with the sights, sounds and smells of the fifth annual Mountain View Arts Festival Sept. 11 to 13.

Beginning Friday evening, more than 50 artists from the area will share their passion for their medium, whether they work this weekend with paint, needle and thread, glass or wood.

They will all be eager to answer questions about their inspirations and the process of creation.

The celebration of art, history and culture continues all over town and a free shuttle between venues ensures you don't miss a thing. The hardest decision is where to start.

The downtown Heritage Walking Tour? Or rope making and Scarecrows on Parade at the museum?

Perhaps at the Train Station, watching quilters at work before adding a few of your own stitches to the children's quilt? Or creating 3-D art in the library's

MakerSpace and using its new Tool Lending Library to build a birdhouse that you can decorate at the Artisan Village's new location in Rosebud Park at the east end of 20th Avenue.

There are countless ways to get your art on at the Artisan Village.

Grab some paint and glue and make your own festival souvenirs.

Dress up in Art the Bear's Tickle Trunk clothes.

Dance an Ojibway hoop dance.

Learn Viking arts and crafts (and battles) and cheer on the Terry Fox runners.

Luckily, there's time for everything!

Munch on great food and enjoy a musical backdrop of stellar Alberta talent.

"The volunteers and organizations in this community have such pride and passion for this festival," says festival chair Kathleen Windsor.

"We know the thousands of people who come to Didsbury this weekend will take home some great memories."

Plan calls for grassroots economic development

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

An economic development brief to be presented to town council asks Didsbury's leadership "to capture the energy, passion and imagination of the community at a grassroots level."

Kevin Bentley, who studied urban planning at Queen's University before embarking on a career of business development, finance and planning, thinks ensuring "a sustainable social, economic and environmental future for Didsbury" starts by "empowering individuals and developing a broad base of community leadership."

Bentley is set to present his brief to town council tonight, Sept. 8.

He is best known as the builder of the library's little free library bookshelves that are installed curbside around the town, and as the volunteer behind the lending library of tools that will be introduced at the library during Mountain View Arts Festival week-end.

He recommends that the town create the Tourism and Economic Development Board suggested in the 2012 municipal development plan but never launched.

Bentley calls for revising and updating the 2008 economic development plan to take into consideration eight steps that will underpin economic development.

These steps include an inventory of physical assets and human attrib-

utes, additional research, education and availability of other resources.

The plan should address "retail leakage" which costs the town \$24 million a year.

He recommends "localism" including Buy Didsbury and regional branding and creating "wow" experiences.

Business retention and expansion can start with "creative and innovative measures" to deal with, by his count, 65 vacant business premises.

The plan should probe tourism and promotion.

And it should examine projects focusing on commercial enterprises, entrepreneurial efforts and industrial, residential and health-care projects.

"There are no quick 'one size fits all' solutions," he cautions.

"Patience and perseverance are required (and) progress, when it comes, is usually in small amounts."

Bentley has circulated drafts of his brief to prominent community groups and leaders for several months.

He said he has had mixed response, but notes that other economic development projects and proposals have not progressed in recent years.



"And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."
- Jesus Christ -

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Gates open at 6:00 pm. Movie starts at 8:30 pm.

The Didsbury Car Club has joined with Fresh Air Cinema to bring to Didsbury some classic outdoor fun, with a screen four stories tall and a forty-foot wide projection surface (one of a kind in Canada) - who wouldn't want to come check it out?

The cost to attend the event will be \$20 per vehicle, or walk-ins at \$5 per person. (Walk-ins must bring your own lawn chairs). Proceeds will go to local Mountain View County Non-Profit Organizations to help with Suicide Awareness and Victim Services.

Special thanks to Didsbury Smiles Dental Office for coming on board and becoming a major presenting sponsor.

Centex has been kind enough to offer free popcorn to event goers, and Tim Hortons is providing hot coffee!

The film being presented for your enjoyment is "Back to the Future Part II".

Tell your friends, family, children, and strangers you meet and come enjoy a night under the stars with a film everyone will love! For additional information please contact: Gil 403-994-0845 or Dana 403-923-2481.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

With Warm Regards,
The Didsbury Car Club



myCommunity
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School year starts fast out of the gate

BY FRANK DABBS
MVP Staff

Students, teachers and parents in Didsbury won't waste a minute this week starting the school year fast out of the gate, says Carolyn Massel, the principal of Westglen School.

The first big event sees Ross Ford Elementary School, Westglen School and Didsbury High School collaborate on the annual Terry Fox Run on Sept. 30.

The iconic commemorative event is run over a course laid out in the west end of town. High school students complete two laps of the course and the elementary school students run it once.

Students at Didsbury High School have the annual photo day on Wednesday for school pictures. Photo retakes are scheduled for Nov. 3.

The Dragons 9-man football team has been practising at the high school since Aug. 17.

"The Dragons are a community team, not strictly speaking a high school program, but we are glad to have them using our school and co-operating with them," said high school principal Garth Dagg.

"And most of the boys on the team are our students."

Ross Ford elementary, which offers K-4 classes, had its school tour for new students and their parents Aug. 28.

Westglen, the middle school with grades 5-8 classes, will hold its Meet the Teachers evening Sept. 10 with a beef on a bun supper.

Carolyn Massel, who grew up on a farm, has spent most of her teaching career in Didsbury and says that one excellent feature that all the schools in Didsbury share is a strong music and band program.

It dates back some 40 years to a single teacher, a Mr. Evans.

"He was Welsh and a sergeant major and he taught in all the schools," Massel said.

"Anyone who went to school here in those years will remember him and we have his musical legacy today."

High school principal Garth Dagg echoed Massel's enthusiasm for the band program.

"Good bands start at Ross Ford elementary," said Dagg.

"They are one of Didsbury's gems."

"Half of our students (at the high school) are involved in the music program."

"And last year our band went to Spain for a concert tour," said Dagg.

He also praised his students' academic achievement.

Didsbury student marks rank above the provincial average, he said.



Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

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REVIEW

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2130 - 22 Avenue



Beautiful park-like double lot (100' X 120'), lovely spacious bungalow (1869 sq. ft.), fully finished, wood stove, oak kitchen, sun room, hot water heat, double attached garage, excellent central location.

\$389,000

14 Westpoint Dr.



Beautiful 6 bedroom, 3 bathroom home, fully developed, in floor heat, double attached and double detached garages, private park in back yard complete with fire pit

\$399,900

1435 - 21 Avenue



Great investment opportunity, two 3 bedroom suites, two 2 bedroom suites, consistently rented, centrally located.

\$319,900

204 Campus Green



Bright and well maintained 45+ condo apartment, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wrap around balcony that is partly enclosed, good storage, reasonable condo fees

\$219,900

27 Didsbury Mobile Home Park



Affordable home on rented lot, nice laminate flooring, kitchen open to dining, 3 bedrooms & potential for a 4th, covered front porch, nice 2 tiered treated deck, 2 sheds

\$46,900

1909 - 17 Street



Very nice College Green villa, newer hardwood floors and interior paint, 2 bedrooms, basement development started, great location, double garage, reasonable HOA fees

\$249,900

217 Valarosa Place



Completely finished, 2 + 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, vaulted ceiling, open plan, basement walk up, single detached garage, fenced yard, 2 tiered deck.

\$309,900

4.92 Acres in Bergen Area



1310 sq. ft., fully finished, many recent upgrades inside and out, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, hot water heating throughout, covered wrap around deck, some outbuildings, some cross fencing.

\$499,900

758 Stonehaven Dr., Carstairs



Gorgeous executive style home, 1572 sq. ft., tile, hardwood, gas fireplace, vaulted ceiling, main floor laundry, quartz counter tops in gourmet kitchen, oversized double attached garage.

\$449,900

9 Sandpiper Drive



1363 sq ft home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood, ceramic tile, oak kitchen, large south facing deck, 9' basement ceilings, roughed in for floor heat

\$334,900

73 Deer Coulee Drive



Large residential lot in one of the nicest locations of Didsbury backing onto a ravine with a gorgeous open view, paved walking trail behind, R-1 zoning.

\$134,900 (no GST)

"Deb's Second Hand"



Business for sale, reasonable rent, 4000 sq ft of space, lots of inventory included, ready for a new owner and a quick possession

\$20,000 plus GST

9 Westwood Drive



Lovely family home, 3 + 1 bedrooms, 2 baths, fully finished, oak kitchen, nice patio area, trend lot, excellent location

\$279,900

A sign of the times!

SOLD



SOLD



The Porch Boyz

26 Deer Coulee Drive



Beautiful family home, over 1900 sq. ft., 4 + 1 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, huge country kitchen, gas fireplace, in floor heat in basement, great location, large lot.

\$399,900

3.04 acres on Pavement



Great location only minutes from Didsbury and Carstairs, great access to QER, mountain view

\$179,900

1310 - 23 Avenue



45+ half duplex unit, no condo fees, fully finished, 2 + 1 bedrooms, 2 baths, open plan, 9' ceilings, corner gas fireplace, in floor heat in basement, 2 tiered deck, fenced yard.

\$259,900

127 Southridge Crescent



3 + 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, huge double lot, double attached garage, large main floor family room.

\$254,900

52 Stromsray Gate, Carstairs



Fantastic 50+ home, over 2400 sq. ft. developed, quartz counter tops, large walk-in pantry, walkout on third level, gas fireplace, etc.

\$439,900

207 Westhill Close



Awesome location, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, front walkout, single attached garage, 2 decks, large lot

\$249,900

14 Princess Petra Avenue



Great affordable townhouse with no condo fees, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, nice fenced yard, front covered deck and rear deck as well, low maintenance yard, vinyl shed

\$149,900

39 Didsbury Mobile Home Park



2 bedroom mobile on rented lot, lots of upgrades in recent years, hardwood, laminate, new maple kitchen, built in oak desk/wall unit, rear deck, 2 storage sheds

\$29,900

2510 - 15 Avenue



Great family home 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, gas fireplace, wrap-around treated deck, gorgeous yard, nice location.

\$269,900

2034 - 18 Avenue



Great starter or revenue property, 2 bedrooms plus developed attic, newer furnace, old time single garage, residential/commercial zoning

\$189,900

2126 - 16 Avenue



Great starter or revenue home, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, newer furnace and siding, large lot, double detached garage, great location

\$238,900

2037 - 18 Avenue



1343 sq ft bungalow, 2 + 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, jetted tub, fireplace, hardwood, recent upgrades, fenced yard, double heated garage, hot tub

\$239,900

1502 Walter Place



Excellent family home, all new flooring, in floor heat in basement, open plan, oversized heated double attached garage, underground sprinkler system, large fenced yard with 2 decks

\$339,900

71 Southridge Crescent



Great home for first time buyers or revenue property, 3 + 1 bedrooms, 2 baths, large back yard with deck, fully fenced.

\$224,900